GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3160
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2008
SHORTAGE OF WAGONS
Chakraborty Shri Ajay

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the fact that a large amount of goods can not reach their destination in time due to shortage of goods wagons and rakes in the country particularly in the Eastern Railway zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith impact on the Railways income; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Railways to remove the shortage of wagons and rakes and to speed up the movement of goods?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI R. VELU)

(a): Goods loaded through the Indian Railways mostly reach their destination in reasonable time. There might be occasional delays on account of accidents en-route or blockades to traffic. As far as availability of wagons is concerned, adequate number of wagons are available although there could be some gaps between demand and supply due to seasonal fluctuations, operational constraints, etc.

(b): The approximate freight earnings upto Feb.'08 (April'07 - Feb.'08) in the current year was Rs.42696.22 crores as against Rs.37648.87 crores earned during the corresponding period of last year i.e. an increase of 13.41%.

(c): The Indian Railways is contemplating acquisition of approximately 20,000 wagons (vehicle units) during the year 2008-09. To speed up the movement of goods, emphasis is given on completion of throughput enhancement works and traffic facility works, which will generate additional capacity for movement of freight traffic.